

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 161419Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1283

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CNO WASHDC OP 009C

COMNAVINTCOM ALEX VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET ARMY NEWSPAPER ON U.S. NAVY STATION IN AUSTRALIA

FOR POLADS

1. THE SOVIET ARMY NEWSPAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON JUNE 15 CARRIED AN AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL (SIGNED ONLY BY "AN OBSERVER") ON U.S. ATTEMPTS TO GAIN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT IN THAT COUNTRY AN OMEGA RADIO-NAVIGATION STATION. THE EDITORIAL BEGINS BY PRAISING THE INCREASINGLY PREVALENT
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PRACTICE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF SOLVING DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL

METHODS. IT CONTINUES THAT THIS PRACTICE IS OBVIOUSLY NOT TO EVERYONE'S LIKING, AND POINTS TO THE PENTAGON'S ATTEMPT TO BUILD AN OMEGA STATION IN AUSTRALIA AS AN EXMPLE OF THIS. IT DENIES THAT THE STATION CAN HAVE ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO SERVE AS A NAVIGATIONAL AID FOR U.S. MISSILE-CARRYING SUBMARINES. IT CONLUDES THAT THIS ATTEMPT BY THE PENTAGON "COMPELS ATTENTION AND CALLS FORTH A CERTAIN NEED FOR VIGILANCE."

2. COMMENT: THE EDITORIAL, THOUGH CAUTIOUSLY PHRASED, REPRESENTS A STEP-UP IN THE AUTHORITY INVESTED IN SOVIET PROPAGANDA AGAINST U.S. DEFENSE EFFORTS. WE SUSPECT IT IS SOMETHING OF A REJOINDER TO RECENT U.S. PUBLICITY ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOVIET NAVAL BASE IN SOMALIA. IT IS PROBABLY RELATED AS WELL TO INCREASING SOVIET CRITICISM OF WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORTS, AS EPITOMIZED IN THE BREZHNEV ELECTION SPEECH JUNE 13.
MATLOCK

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